

Submitter: Becky Orf  
On Behalf Of: Myself and my community  
Committee: Senate Committee On Finance and Revenue  
Measure: SB1593

My community is at high risk for catastrophic wildfire. Funding for community wildfire risk reduction programs that are designed to build neighborhood resilience is imperative.

I support tax revenue that is adequate to provide essential services, while also being fair and equitable. The timber industry has not been paying their fair share, and the tax revenue that our community relied on for public services has been steadily reduced since the 1990s due to the Legislature's phasing out the severance tax for larger timber companies.

I support SB 1593-1 that would require a nine-month study considering a reinstatement of severance taxes for public and private forestland owners for all timber harvested. This could include a partial nonrefundable tax credit for entities that pay income tax on the sale of harvested timber and have adopted high standards for climate smart practices.

It is important that more revenue be returned to counties, local fire districts, and impacted jurisdictions. It is also important that there be funding for Community Risk Reduction programs to assist communities in preparing for wildfires, as well as watershed reduction funds.

Please support SB 1593-1. Thank you.